



Williamson & Priory Friends

Annual Report 2022/2023

Williamson & Priory Friends Registered Charity Commission no.1166363

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williamsonartgallery.org

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Mary Compton-Rickett

This was the year of change, for the Williamson in particular, as staff who had been in post for many years retired or moved on. Colin Simpson, our long standing Principal Museums Officer retired and Niall Hodson, who had been working alongside Colin, took over as Curator. Jo Burns, the venue manager, left and we welcomed Samantha Howes. These changes marked a change in the staff structure and hierarchy, which has resulted in things being done a little differently, thus changing some of the ways the Friends and the venues we support interrelate. Things are arranged a little more formally than before. We had, for some time, enjoyed access to gallery facilities for the preparation of the newsletter and mail outs. As we all know WBC continues to struggle to stretch the budget, meaning each venue has to be as economical as possible. We were therefore asked to largely separate our administration from the gallery. Because Openings to the shows now have a different focus, Friends are being invited to fewer of these and we were offered instead more tailored events around the shows, a “meet the artist” or talk. The first event was meeting Helene Appel during her excellent and intriguing show.

The purpose of the Friends, to support both the Priory and the Williamson, of course remains the same and we supported two Sunday Serenades held in the summer and put in a partly successful bid to the Hemby Trust, which will enable three workshops to be held before Christmas in our next financial year. Our own activities included a visit to Port Sunlight and Norton Priory.

The gardening team has continued to keep the green gallery in good shape and visitors continue to enjoy it during the summer months. Unfortunately, one of the birch trees which form the focal point of the design has died and will need to be professionally removed and another one is not happy. It is the view of Wirral's tree preservation officer that disease is not the problem which is some comfort.

Membership remains healthy and at the end of our year stood at 515. As members were informed, our membership secretary had stood down in July and by the end of October our new secretary, Susanne Christian, had yet to take over. This is a very important role and we are grateful to both for excellent work. It was during this year that the committee took the decision to increase membership fees from £10 to a more realistic £20. Thank you all Members for your support.

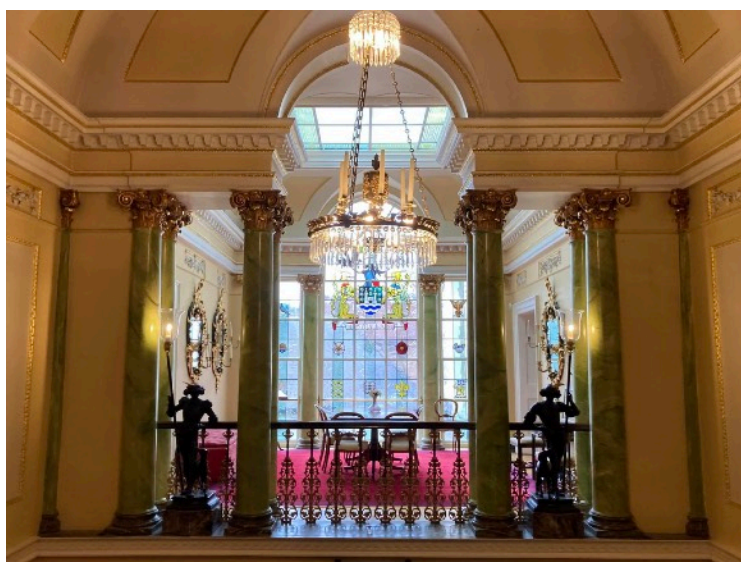
Myself and Corinne attended the AGM and Conference of BAFM (British Association of Friends of Museums) in September at Doncaster, one of the newly created cities. Whilst the talks were not about art galleries in a struggling economy, we were treated to an inspirational talk from one presenter who had created a career for himself and become an

expert in palaeontology largely from a standing start.

Both the Williamson and Birkenhead Priory enjoyed a successful year and numbers coming through the doors of both remain good. At the end of the year, we look forward to Wirral Regional Borough of Culture.

Mary Compton-Rickett

Chair.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane Horton

Firstly, thanks to all who have increased their subscriptions. This has enabled us to offset loss of other income and increase in some expenses.

Your increased membership subscriptions have helped to offset our loss of donations at the gallery, compulsory bank charges of £227 imposed by HSBC, and increased postal charges.

We no longer have the expense of providing refreshments.

This year we successfully bid for a grant from the Hemby Trust and were awarded £500 for Saturday Art classes. This spend together with £200 from the Friends will show in next years accounts.

Financial summary 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023			
	Income	Expenditure	
Administration		£1,205	
Bank charges		£227	
Retirement gift		£1,005	
Donations at Gallery	£446		
Gallery purchases		£90	
Hosting previews	£269	£574	
Memberships	£6,519	£574	
Priory	£2,268	£2,923	
Publicity/Newsletter		£1,560	
Quad garden		£344	
Childrens art	£500	£250	
Sunday seranades		£800	
Visits	£1,505	£1,573	
	£11,507	£11,125	£382

VISITS

Corinne Whitham

After a very long break we were able to organise three visits for our Friends in 2023. We have always tried to make these trips interesting and relevant to the membership, to have something local and to go further afield for the others.

In 2023 we started with a guided tour of Port Sunlight in May where members made their own way to the meeting point to join a partially self guided tour of the village.

In July we went by coach to Norton Priory. There have obviously been strong historical links between Norton Priory and Birkenhead Priory and staff on both sites enjoy a good working relationship so it was fascinating to see how the site has developed with outside investment - something from which Birkenhead Priory will benefit in the near future (watch this space!). We were made very welcome with a guided tour, a tasty lunch and free time to explore the site.

In September, while we were still enjoying good weather, we went further afield to Capesthorpe Hall. The hall is a popular wedding venue and only open to the public on two days per week so we were able to book our group in for the Monday opening. We had a very interesting guided tour round the house with a special focus on the family's art collection, lunch in the onsite cafe followed by free time to explore the extensive grounds (thank goodness for good weather!).

The intention is to continue this model in 2024, offering 3/4 trips to Friends in the warmer weather, a relatively local visit and some further afield which will involve a coach trip. We obviously welcome any suggestions from members for possible venues as we aim to make them relevant and interesting for the Friends - but we have some ideas for visits that we think you will enjoy.



BIRKENHEAD PRIORY

Elaine Heritage

As a National Monument & Grade 1 listed building, it is simply known to locals as “The Priory”. Since the last report, our Priory has emerged from the Covid lockdown to some of the busiest times since it was founded in 1150. A real community spirit has grown alongside an inherent atmosphere of peace and calm.

Autumn and Advent saw children exploring nature trails and adults crafting festive table decorations and Christmas wreaths. The Chapter house resounded with carols and Christmas songs from the Community Vox singers and the 3L's Choir, helped by the audience. In Spring, the grounds came to life with spring flowers planted by volunteers and council staff, who had also done many necessary maintenance tasks in the annual January closure. Upon re-opening, visitor numbers increased until an Easter egg hunt on the 1st & 2nd April attracted thousands of visitors and Matthew, the Easter bunny, ran out of eggs! Children enjoyed making Beady bracelets and marvelled at the Moonshine Sanctuary Owls.

The Big Lunch Day (6th May 2023) to celebrate King Charles's coronation was a fabulous family picnic, themed red, white & blue. Children learned how to Maypole dance, Mersey Morris dancers strutted their stuff, Choirs sang their hearts out and the Wirral Samba drummers broadcast a wall of sound, which echoed off the ancient buildings. A day to remember with many more activities. The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and the Mayor were guests and the event was covered by Radio Merseyside, Capital Radio & Radio Wirral.

Summer saw a marvellous thirteen week programme of Music and events of all different genres, all free to the visiting public, produced by Samantha Higgins and directed by Caroline, Frank & Matthew; supported by the Priory Volunteers, Angela, Phil, Elaine, Tony, Mary & Friday Frank. In the middle of this, the “Off the Ground” theatre company staged “The Ballads of Billy the Kid” to a packed audience. All too soon The Birkenhead Choral Society and the Liverpool Guitar Society guided us into the Autumn.



The Friends have been approached and agreed to replace the older chairs with newer, more comfortable ones & visitor numbers have increased substantially.



Meanwhile, on a more practical note, the Chapter house is in need of refurbishment as cracks are evident in the fabric of the building. This will need the combined efforts of the Church of England and Wirral Council to rectify it. The Conway Collection, presently in what was the Scriptorium, will have to be rehoused while this takes place. The Priory needs good Friends, as do we all, in every walk of life.

Charity registration number 1166363

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Members

Miss. M. Compton-Rickett
Mrs. J. Horton
Mr. D. Ainsley
Mr. J. Southwood
Mrs. C. Whitham
Mrs. E. Heritage
Mr. Michael Studley

(Appointed 22 November
2022)

Charity number

1166363

Independent examiner

Horner Downey & Company Limited
10 Stadium Court
Stadium Road
Bromborough
United Kingdom
CH62 3RP

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

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WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

CHARITY MEMBERS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

The charity members present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to promote, support, assist and improve the Williamson Art Gallery and Wirral Museums, and their cultural and educational activities.

The charity members have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Financial review

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The charity members consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The charity members have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity members who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Miss. M. Compton-Rickett

Mrs. J. Horton

Mr. D. Alnsley

Mr. C. Simpson

Mr. J. Southwood

Mrs. C. Witham

Mrs. E. Heritage

Mrs P Horner

Mr. Michael Studley

Dr S Groves

(Retired 22 November 2022)

(Retired 22 November 2022)

(Appointed 22 November 2022)

(Appointed 4 June 2023 and retired 3 August 2023)

The charity members' report was approved by the Board of Charity Members.

.....

Miss. M. Compton-Rickett

Chairman

Dated:

.....
Mrs. J. Horton

Treasurer

Dated:.....

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE CHARITY MEMBERS OF WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

I report to the charity members on my examination of the financial statements of Williamson and Priory Friends (the charity) for the year ended 31 October 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity members of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Horner Downey & Company Limited

10 Stadium Court
Stadium Road
Bromborough
CH62 3RP
United Kingdom

Dated:

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3					
	7,970	-	7,970	7,784	-	7,784
Charitable activities	4					
	4,042	500	4,542	1,000	-	1,000
Total income						
	12,012	500	12,512	8,784	-	8,784
Charitable activities						
Unrestricted funds expenditure	5					
	11,133	60	11,193	7,317	55	7,372
Restricted funds expenditure	5					
	-	-	-	-	21,308	21,308
Total charitable expenditure						
	11,133	60	11,193	7,317	21,363	28,680
Total expenditure						
	11,133	60	11,193	7,317	21,363	28,680
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds						
	879	440	1,319	1,467	(21,363)	(19,896)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 November 2022	22,291	10,299	32,590	20,824	31,662	52,486
Fund balances at 31 October 2023						
	23,170	10,739	33,909	22,291	10,299	32,590

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		34,449	34,087
Current liabilities	10	(540)	(1,497)
Net current assets		<u>33,909</u>	<u>32,590</u>
Income funds			
Restricted funds	11	10,739	10,299
Unrestricted funds		<u>23,170</u>	<u>22,291</u>
		<u>33,909</u>	<u>32,590</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Charity Members on

.....
Miss. M. Compton-Rickett
Chairman

.....
Mrs. J. Horton
Treasurer

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Williamson and Priory Friends is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the charity members have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the charity members continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the charity members in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Resources expended during the year are categorised depending on the charitable activity for which they are incurred. These resources ensure the charity's continuous activity and can be subcategorised further between staffing costs and cost of materials, which are the most prominent resources expended.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the charity members are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations and gifts	1,451	2,200
Membership fees	6,519	5,584
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Charitable Income 2023	Unrestricted Charitable Income 2022
	£	£
Admin	500	-
Priory	2,268	1,000
Hosting previews	269	-
Visits	1,505	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	4,542	1,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	4,042	1,000
Restricted funds	500	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	4,542	1,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

5	Charitable activities		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
			Expenditure	Expenditure	2023	2022
			2023	2023		
			£	£	£	£
	Admin expenses	2,445	60	2,505	1,806	
	Membership expenses	574	-	574	-	
	Priory expenses	2,923	-	2,923	541	
	Gallery purchases	90	-	90	-	
	Hosting previews expenses	574	-	574	460	
	Publicity	1,560	-	1,560	4,450	
	Visits expenses	1,573	-	1,573	-	
	BAFTA gala expenses	800	-	800	-	
	Garden expenses	344	-	344	115	
	Sculpture purchases	-	-	-	20,758	
	Stained glass windows	250	-	250	550	
		11,133	60	11,193	28,680	
		11,133	60	11,193	28,680	
		11,133	-	11,133	7,317	
	Unrestricted funds	-	60	60	21,363	
	Restricted funds	11,133	60	11,193	28,680	
		7,317	-		7,317	
	Unrestricted funds	55	21,308		21,363	
	Restricted funds	7,372	21,308		28,680	
6	Net movement in funds			2023	2022	
				£	£	
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):					
7	Charity Members					
	None of the charity members (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.					

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Current liabilities

	2023 £	2022 £
Other payables	-	1,005
Accruals and deferred income	540	492
	<u>540</u>	<u>1,497</u>

11 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 November 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 October 2023 £
	10,299	500	(60)	10,739
	<u>10,299</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>(60)</u>	<u>10,739</u>
Previous year:				
	At 1 November 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 October 2022 £
	31,662	-	(21,363)	10,299
	<u>31,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,363)</u>	<u>10,299</u>

WILLIAMSON AND PRIORY FRIENDS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

12 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 November 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 October 2023
General funds	£ 22,291	£ 12,012	£ (11,133)	£ 23,170
Previous year:				
	At 1 November 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 October 2022
General funds	£ 20,824	£ 8,784	£ (7,317)	£ 22,291

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
At 31 October 2023:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	£ 23,170	£ 10,739	£ 33,909
	£ 23,170	£ 10,739	£ 33,909
At 31 October 2022:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	£ 22,291	£ 10,299	£ 32,590
	£ 22,291	£ 10,299	£ 32,590

14 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).